

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

*A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God*

## ***The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us***

**John 1: 14-18**

If there was any doubt at all about whom John was speaking when he wrote, "In the beginning was the Word," it is made abundantly clear in the opening paragraph that this "Word" is, in every way, fully equal with God—in fact IS God. Likewise, if there was any doubt about the identity and deity of the Man, Jesus, it is made totally clear when John says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God, the eternal Son, through the incarnation, becomes Jesus the Christ (Messiah) and lives among us in human flesh. But what was it like for God to become a man?

### **I. The Word Became Flesh**

- A. How did God, the Holy Trinity, view the incarnation? How did He feel in that moment? What was the *kenosis* (Phil 2:7) like for Jesus? What was it like for the Father, waiting for Jesus to grow up, to begin to understand His identity?
- B. The immutable Son took on a new form: He *became* flesh
  1. This is a change for the Son, and it is permanent for all eternity
  2. He became the Second Man, fully human, without original sin, like Adam
  3. To be human is not equal to being a sinner; the race was human before it became sinful. Jesus was human and was never sinful, though He was every bit flesh and blood as we. He *became* sin for us also, He who knew no personal sin.
- C. What did Mary feel? What did Joseph think? What did shepherds see? What mystery baffled the angels?

### **II. And Pitched His Tent Right in Our Midst**

- A. This is the pivotal point of all human history. In three short decades, give or take a few years, the course of history is changed: God is living with us as a Man named Jesus.
- B. John, the eyewitness, declares, "we beheld His glory, glory as of an only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
  1. Never was there such glory as this One, so full of surprises at every turn; never One so unpredictable, so right, so amazing.
  2. Never was there such a perfect blending of infinite and unmerited favor co-existing in unwavering truth, unadorned reality. Sinners exposed, their black hearts revealed by His very presence were drawn to Him, to the Light, to the Love, with yearning to be whole.

### **III. No One Has Seen God, The Only Begotten God (The Word) Has Explained Him**

- A. The written word was only a part of the revelation and had no power to save
- B. Grace and Truth came through the Living Word, this One from the heart of God Who has perfectly explained Him.
- C. How do you see Jesus? Do you have a clear picture of the Father's heart? Take time this season, in a quiet place, to behold His glory . . .

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him

**John 1: 14-18 NASB**

We dare to say such things because of the confidence we have in God through Christ, and not because we are confident of our own powers. It is God who makes us competent

